

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims according to the following claim listing. The claims presented herein are marked to show changes relative to the immediate prior version of the claims.

- 1.-22. (canceled)
23. (New) A method of increasing tissue volume in a subject, said method comprising injecting a composition comprising alginate into said subject, wherein said composition is injected at an injection site that is in or near said tissue in need of volume increase.
24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the composition comprises crosslinked alginate or uncrosslinked alginate.
25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the composition comprises crosslinked alginate.
26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the composition comprises uncrosslinked alginate.
27. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said tissue is skin.
28. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said tissue is muscle tissue.
29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said muscle tissue is a sphincter muscle.
30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the sphincter muscle is the lower esophageal sphincter muscle.
31. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the sphincter muscle is the inner sphincter muscle of the bladder.
32. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said composition comprises potassium or sodium alginate.

33. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said composition comprises microparticles of alginate, wherein said microparticles of alginate are crosslinked with at least one crosslinking agent, wherein said at least one crosslinking agent is barium.
34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said microparticles of alginate are crosslinked with barium and at least one additional cation.
35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said at least one additional cation is calcium.
36. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said composition comprises microparticles of alginate, wherein said microparticles of alginate are crosslinked with at least one crosslinking agent, wherein said at least one crosslinking agent is calcium.
37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein said microparticles of alginate are crosslinked with calcium and at least one additional cation.
38. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said composition further comprises at least one additional compound selected from the group consisting of vitamins, adhesion proteins, anti-inflammatory substances, antibiotics, growth factors, hormones, nutrients, marker substances and cells.
39. (New) The method of claim 33 or 36, wherein the composition further comprises a pharmaceutical carrier.
40. (New) The method of claim 33 or 36, wherein the diameter of said microparticles is from about 20 to about 2000 μ m.
41. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising injecting at least one solution selected from the group consisting of EDTA, a citrate solution and a solution of a complexing agent.
42. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said alginate is present in solution at a concentration of about 0.1% to about 4% (w/v).

43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein said composition further comprises a physiological carrier.
44. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein said alginate is crosslinked *in situ*, said *in situ* crosslinking comprising injecting a solution comprising barium or calcium salt at said injection site.
45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said crosslinking solution is co-injected with said alginate composition.
46. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said crosslinking solution is injected after said alginate composition is injected.
47. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein said alginate solution further comprises D-glucono- δ -lactone and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of barium carbonate and calcium carbonate.
48. (New) The method of claim 47, further comprising injecting EDTA or citrate solution after said injection of said alginate composition.